



One Hundred Ninth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515
March 3, 2005

Nuala O'Connor Kelly
Chief Privacy Officer
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Kelly:

As you are probably aware, ChoicePoint, a commercial data aggregator, recently had its database compromised, potentially exposing personal information of hundreds of thousands of Americans. This database includes such records as motor vehicle registrations, license and deed transfers, military records, names, addresses and Social Security numbers. We are concerned that components of the Department of Homeland Security may be using ChoicePoint and that the Department may not have adequate safeguards and procedures in place regarding its use of commercial databases that infringe on personal privacy.

Please advise whether your Office has reviewed the Department's use of ChoicePoint and/or similar commercial database aggregators. If you have reviewed this use, please provide information on your conclusions, as well as any safeguards and procedures that exist within the Department regarding the use of such databases. If you have not conducted such a review, we request that you do so immediately. This review should include an analysis of how the Department's use of commercial databases could affect the privacy personal information that the Department obtains, uses, and/or discloses from these types of databases. Please provide this response within 30 days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Thompson", written over a horizontal line.

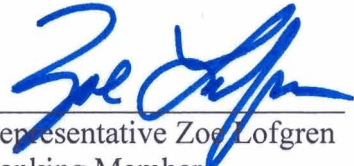
Representative Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Homeland Security

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Conyers", written over a horizontal line.

Representative John Conyers
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee



Representative Loretta Sanchez
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic Security,
Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity
House Committee on Homeland Security



Representative Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Intelligence, Information
Sharing, and Terrorism
Assessment,
House Committee on
Homeland Security